

DRAFT (OMS [REDACTED] JV - 10 Jan 68)

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METHOD OF REFERRAL AND AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

IN CASES OF UNSUITABILITY

In the handling of cases of unsuitability the role and area of responsibility both of OMS and the command components must be well defined, explicit, and understood.

It is not the physician's responsibility to examine, render an opinion, or to advise, except in response to an appropriate and legally valid request therefor.

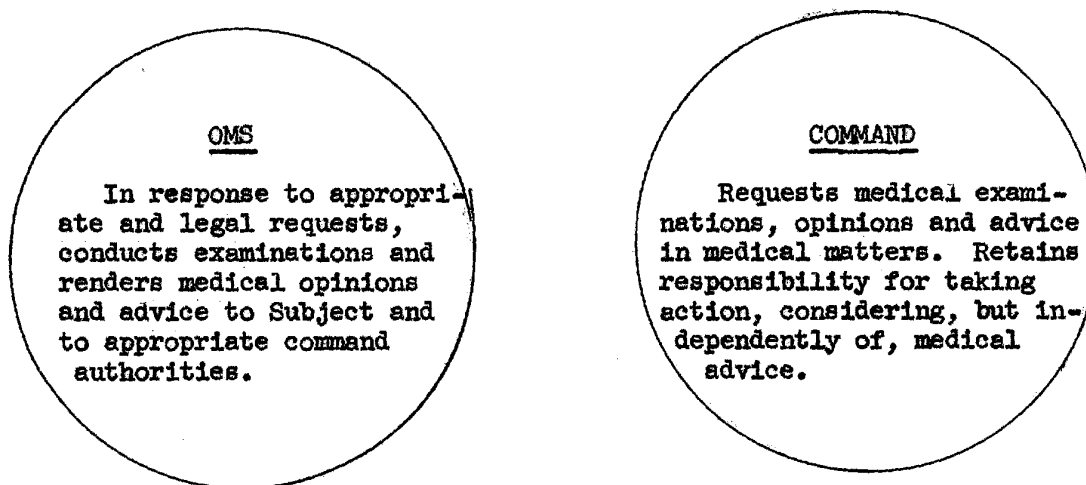
In response to such a request, the physician's responsibility is only to examine, render an opinion, and to advise. It is not the physician's responsibility to take any further action. A clear distinction must be made between advising action and taking action. It is the responsibility of those advised to take or reject the physician's medical advice. Rendering an opinion and advising a course of action are not the same as taking that course of action.

The administrative command has its area of responsibility, which likewise must be sharply defined, clearly explicit, and understood.

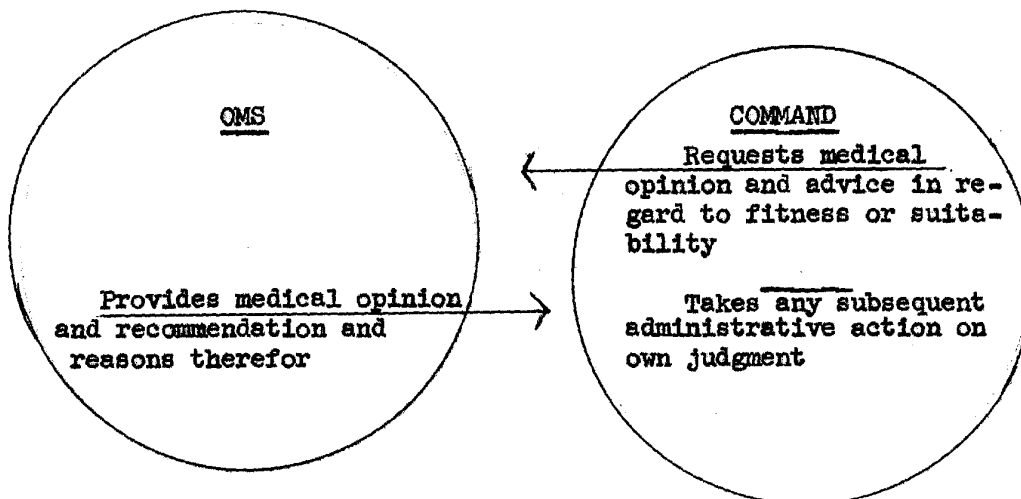
However closely these two areas of responsibility may approach each other, the boundary line between them must remain sharply defined and mutually recognized.

A visual aid may be useful in clarifying the concept.

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In cases of unsuitability the interaction may be similarly visualized:



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The referral for medical evaluation lies within the area or command responsibility. The precise mechanism of it needs to be explicated in detail, thoroughly understood by both the Command and Medical personnel involved, and, of course, strictly observed in all cases.

The administrative details of the proper method of referral need to be worked out in close collaboration between medical and command authorities. At a minimum the command authority would inform Subject of the purpose of the referral, the reasons for it, and submit a written report to OMS describing Subject's problematic behavior affecting his performance of duty, with illustrative examples. Where it is not obviously impractical to do so, a preliminary conference between supervisor and medical examiner, at the initiative of the supervisor should be required.

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